

years than any other current member of the Illinois State Senate. Senator Demuzio is credited with rebuilding the infrastructure of the Illinois Democratic Party and the Illinois delegation stands united today as a result of his superb leadership.

The Illinois Senate and the people of this state have lost a great leader. Mr. Speaker, I join the State of Illinois in mourning the loss of this statesman, and extend to Senator Demuzio's family my thoughts and prayers.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA
HOWEY**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to stand and recognize Virginia Howey for receiving the Southwest Colorado Not-for-Profit Director of the Year Award. Virginia has spent twenty-two years starting early childhood and family support programs in Montezuma County, and this award is a well-deserved testament to her dedication to her community and the State of Colorado.

Virginia's extensive involvement with community organizations comes from her firm belief that one person can make a difference, but it takes a whole community to make a lasting impact. As the current Pinon Project executive director, she has implemented 12 programs for prenatal moms, infants and toddlers, preschoolers, school-age youth, families, and individuals, serving roughly 900 families in Montezuma and Dolores counties. She also has served as chair of the Family Resource Association's state board of directors, on the United Way of Montezuma advisory board, as fiscal agent for the Montezuma/Dolores Community Summit, and as Southwest KIDS coordinator for four years. She also was responsible for securing a Department of Transportation grant for a seat belt campaign and implemented the Montezuma-Cortez school district's Early Reading First Program for 300 preschool children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Virginia Howey on receiving the Southwest Colorado Not-for-Profit Director of the Year Award before this body of Congress and this nation. The award is a testament to her hard work and great skill as an organizer building programs that benefit individuals, families, and communities throughout Southwest Colorado. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO AMADOR
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS
TEAM**

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of the Amador Valley High School civics team, from Pleasanton, California. The 19 seniors and their coach, social studies teacher Matt Campbell are here in Washington to represent California in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution"

civics competition. This weekend, these bright young men and women will face 49 other teams from around the nation, demonstrating their knowledge of the Constitution of the United States of America and how it has shaped the history and institutions of this land. I am extremely proud of these students, the future leaders of the 11th district of California and the Nation and I wish them the best of luck in the competition.

This is not the first time the Amador Valley High School team has been to the National competition. Since 1992, the team has made it to this level four times, and in 1995 they were crowned National Champion. This record of accomplishment is truly a testament to the talented, dedicated teachers of the Amador Valley High School.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these fine young scholars, and all the students from around the country whose dedication to civics and the history of this great Nation brings them here this week.

**HONORING THE SHARP
HEALTHCARE VICTORIES OF
SPIRIT EVENT**

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 14th annual Sharp Healthcare Victories of Spirit event. This event is a celebration of all that is right in health care and the value of community ties. For over 40 years, the Sharp model of rehabilitation care provides innovative services that assist individuals impacted by catastrophic injury or illness in reaching their greatest potential—at home, at school, on the job and in recreational and sports activities. Their success is demonstrated through the achievements of those who are privileged to serve within Rehabilitation Service. Victories of Spirit showcases great work and partnerships that lead to even greater patient outcomes and achievement.

This special evening is dedicated to honoring incredible people who have played a hand at turning tragedy into triumph. The Eagle Spirit Award represents the symbolism of the Eagle Spirit, a Navajo sign of the most potent healing power, one that elicits images of soaring, of conquering and of excelling. Victories of Spirit is a night that celebrates triumphs and those who make them possible. Year after year it demonstrates to our community just how powerful the human spirit is and inspires each one of us to be the best we can be. I would like to individually recognize each of the recipients of the Eagle Spirit Award:

Josephina Everett is a mother and a teacher for deaf children in need. Josefina and her husband, Luke, live in Mexico and run a free Christian home and school for deaf children in Mexico. Josephina, who became deaf at the age of five, has dedicated her life to helping deaf children learn and appreciate their gifts. Following a burst aneurysm that almost took her life, Josephina learned to sign again using one hand and eventually learned to write and to walk. Josefina and her family have shown great strength against all odds. Their love and faith have brought them all back to the deaf children of Valle de Guadalupe.

DeShon Mitchell knows he's not defined by his paralysis, and that his dreams before his injury continue on. He's just altering how he plans to accomplish them. This athletic teen went back to school and graduated with his class. He then went on to San Diego State University and completed his degree in Economics just four years later. Through his work with Sharp On Survival he is rediscovering his confidence. He is still playing sports and enjoying music, and he's added public speaking to his talents, working as a Voice of Injury Prevention (VIP) for Sharp On Survival.

Juan Solis was diagnosed at the age of 37 neurocysticercosis and hydrocephalus with which required multiple surgeries and shunting to drain the fluid on his brain. He spent months in the hospital followed by several years in a nursing home. With the help of the patients and staff of Sharp Cabrillo Skilled Nursing Unit, Juan is forever grateful he's got a second chance on life. He is finally home with his family and working two jobs after being away for five years. He hopes to return to coaching the neighborhood kids in "futbol-soccer" this year.

Mathew Sparks was temporarily sidelined from his dream of service to his Country by a spinal cord injury at the age of 23. While Matt may not be able to fly with the Marines, he is now telling his story as a Voice of Injury Prevention (VIP) for Sharp On Survival. Through Matt's work in the program, he's able to serve by speaking at the Marine Corps and Navy safety stand-downs, helping to protect the men and women who protect our country.

Christine O. Timmins is an educator who hasn't let a 1978 spinal injury change her. She is full of capability, dedicated to serving, and dedicated to her students. Christine's courage has benefited teens for more than 30 years now. Her colleagues will tell you, "She can no longer leave footprints in the sand, but she leaves imprints on the hearts and minds of all whom she has taught and touched with her ability for so many years."

The San Diego Brain Injury Foundation has been serving brain injury survivors and their loved ones since 1983. The foundation started as a grass roots effort by families of survivors who knew they needed help and that many others would too. Over the last 20 years, those initial seeds have blossomed into a regional not-for-profit organization that has raised over \$700,000 to provide support, resource and information, networking opportunities and service referral to 11,000 people affected by brain injury each year in San Diego County. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for brain injury survivors and their families and promote public awareness and social advocacy.

More than 500 guests including business, government and educational leaders, physicians and health care executives, rehabilitation providers, the media and honored community members from the San Diego area will join in the celebration. I would like to thank the Honorary chair of the event, Donnie Edwards of the San Diego Chargers. Donnie will be joined by Bree Walker, a producer/broadcaster, who has hosted the celebration for more than a decade.

This inspiring evening will benefit Sharp On Survival, Sharp's Institute for Injury and Violence Prevention, the recognized model chapter of the Think First National Injury Prevention Foundation. All proceeds raised from this event benefit Sharp On Survival and help to